DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Tuesday, November 25, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:43pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:55am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	15°C
Maximum	30°C
Humidity	35%
Outlook	Sunny

Jansen takes six as SA close on historic Test series win

Pg.18 SPORT

Muttahida MPA urges CM not to separate ICCBS from KU

KARACHI: A Sindh Assembly lawmaker belonging to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan has written a letter to the Sindh chief minister and urged him to reconsider a plan to separate the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) from Karachi University (KU).

Engr. Syed Adil Askari warned that the move could damage academic integrity and disrupt one of Pakistan's most respected research institutions.

"It is concerning that such a significant decision was made without consultation with key stakeholders. The University's Syndicate, Senate, faculty members, and employees were not taken into confidence, nor was any formal approval sought from the relevant academic bodies," Mr Askari said in the letter.

He said that such decisions taken in the past, such as the separation of IBA from KU, have shown that such structural changes can "create financial and administrative barriers for students and reduce public access."

He maintained that IBA's fee structure has moved "far beyond the reach of middle-class families," and the institution continues to face scrutiny from investigative bodies. The same concerns now arise regarding ICCBS, which has always served as a public, research-driven, and academically accessible institution, Mr Askari added.

"In the interest of protecting the integrity of higher education, preserving the University of Karachi's legacy, and ensuring transparency in policy-making, I respectfully urge you to kindly review and reconsider this decision.

—By Waqas Ali Ranjha

Murad announces special Rs25bn package for Karachi road repairs

Tells city mayor funds are not an issue; 60 major roads, 315 internal roads and streets to be rehabilitated; execution requires formal cabinet approval

By Tahir Siddiqui

VEHICLES pass through what is left of a road after monsoon rains in Model Colony.—PPI

KARACHI: Acknowledging the extensive damage caused by recent heavy rains to the road infrastructure, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday approved a plan presented by Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab and announced a Rs25 billion special package for the provincial metropolis.

Informed sources said the special grant to overhaul the city's dilapidated road infrastructure would soon be placed before the provincial cabinet for formal approval.

At a meeting held here at the CM House, Mayor Murtaza Wahab briefed the chief minister on the extent of the damage and the proposed plan for rehabilitation.

The mayor told the meeting that 315 inner city streets are severely damaged and require urgent attention. Furthermore, 60 major roads across the city were scheduled for reconstruction and the estimated cost for the entire program was approximately Rs25bn.

"Funds are not an issue; I want work must be done on a war footing," CM Shah told the mayor, according to a statement issued by the CM House.

He said that the city's roads were in a state of disrepair and that ongoing mega projects were exacerbating traffic woes. "I want development work in the city to be expedited so that the public does not have to endure further hardship," he added.

The chief minister made it unequivocally clear that delays would not be tolerated.

He instructed that all reconstruction work must be comprehensive and that the drainage system for the 60 major roads should be constructed simultaneously alongside the roads themselves to prevent future damage.

He said that the implementation of the Safe City project had already led to a reduction in traffic accidents.

"The accelerated push for infrastructure development underscores the Sindh government's commitment to transforming the city's appearance and improving the quality of life for its millions of residents by the end of the current development cycle," he added.

CM briefed on mega projects

Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Shah also briefed the chief minister on the progress of the major infrastructure projects, including the Korangi Causeway Bridge and the Shahrah-i-Bhutto Expressway.

He said that both projects were nearing completion, with sections already or imminently opening to traffic within the next two months.

The construction of the new, elevated Korangi Causeway Bridge is designed to replace the old causeway, which frequently submerged during heavy rains, causing massive traffic jams and connectivity issues for Korangi's industrial and residential areas.

The LG minister said that the project was over 80 per cent complete. The entire Korangi Causeway Bridge is expected to be operational by December 2025 or early January 2026.

At this, the chief minister said that its completion will provide a permanent, rain-proof connection between Korangi and the rest of the city, alleviating a long-standing civic and economic problem.

About Shahrah-i-Bhutto, the CM was told that the project is approximately 82pc complete as of mid-2025, with overall progress reportedly at 78pc more recently.

The Segment I from the Shaheed-i-Millat Expressway at Qayyumabad to Quaidabad is functional. Shah Faisal Interchange, already inaugurated and opened, is serving the people going to Jinnah Terminal or to Sharea Faisal. The Segment II, which links to the M-9 Motorway, is approximately 65pc complete.

An important four-kilometre elevated section over the Malir riverbed, built to prevent the displacement of local villages, is around 48 to 50pc complete.

This 22km link road, designed to facilitate cargo movement between Port Qasim and the M-9 Motorway, was expected to be fully opened by the end of 2025, Nasir Shah told the chief minister.

This long-delayed project has also seen a recent surge in activity, particularly after the chief minister's visit last week, and is likely to be completed by the end of December 2025, Murtaza Wahab told the chief minister.

The chief minister said that 'after his intervention', construction work on the BRT Red Line has recently resumed after a suspension, though the projected completion timeline has been extended to the end of 2026.

Four boys killed while playing with mortar shell in Kandhkot

By Waseem Shamsi

SUKKUR: Four boys were killed and two others wounded when an abandoned mortar shell they found in a jungle outside their village in Kandhkot exploded, officials said.

The incident took place in Dato Golo village near the Indus Highway in the Zorgarh area within the remit of the Bakhshapur police station in Kandhkot on Monday.

Reports reaching here suggested that a group of boys belonging to the Golo community found the unexploded shell in a deserted area. They mistook it for a toy and began playing with it, causing the mortar to explode. As a result, four of them died on the spot and two others sustained critical injuries.

The dead were identified as Deenan, Kashawat, Barkat and Kala Golo. Babu and Tariq Golo suffered serious wounds and one of them was shifted to Rahim Yar Khan for further treatment.

Villagers said that the victims and the wounded boys were aged between 10 and 16 years.

Meanwhile, area police said that upon receiving information about the incident, they rushed to the scene, cordoned off the area and launched a search operation.

The atmosphere was extremely sorrowful when the four bodies were brought to the village for funeral.

Lawyer refuses to represent Sindh govt before FCC

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: Senior lawyer Salahuddin Ahmed has informed the Sindh government that he cannot represent the province before the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) in an appeal against a Sindh High Court order regarding protection of Karoonjhar mountain range.

In a letter sent to law and mines & mineral secretaries, as well as advocate general, he stated that the subject matter had recently been transferred from the Supreme Court to the FCC and fixed for hearing on Nov 26.

"Due to the change in forum and on account of various concerns raised by different bars about the excessive level of government control over judicial appointments to the Federal Constitutional Court, I do not consider it possible for me to represent the government of Sindh before the Federal Constitutional Court," he stated.

Barrister Ahmed, who is a former president of the Sindh High Court Bar Association, also asked the provincial government to make alternative arrangements for representation and advise requisite procedure and account for refund of professional fees paid earlier in this regard.

It may be recalled that the provincial government had challenged a two-judge SHC bench judgement on the preservation of Karoonjhar Hills.

'Karachi Blooms' inaugurated at Culture Fest

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Arts Council President Ahmed Shah and French artist Chifumi jointly inaugurated an art mural titled 'Karachi Blooms' as part of the World Culture Festival on Monday.

According to a press release, the mural is the result of 10 days of tireless work by the French painter.

Speaking to the media at the inauguration, Ahmed Shah said that the media is showcasing the festival's activities across Pakistan and around the world. "Today we are celebrating this tremendous work by French Artist Chifumi, who worked day and night to create this mural."

He said: "It is with a very sad heart that we are saying goodbye to Chifumi, but we will invite him again."

He added that artwork like this mural would be visible throughout the city. "This mural is open to the people of Karachi and social media influencers. I invite all of you to come see this mural with your families. This mural is a symbol of global unity, love and friendship."

Chifumi said, "This was my first time coming to Pakistan, but not the last. I will definitely come to Pakistan again."

He expressed gratitude to Ahmed Shah and the entire Arts Council team, hoping that after today, mural art will flourish in Karachi.

Art, theatre and music workshops

Earlier, the day began with a fine arts workshop by Burkina Faso's artist Adjaratou Ouedraogo, attended by renowned painter Shahid Rassam and a large number of art school students.

Adjaratou Ouedraogo told students about the art of painting, saying, "I play with colours and through my work tell true stories. I learned art myself through hard work and dedication; I never attended any art school."

She added that when she is happy, she uses deep colours.

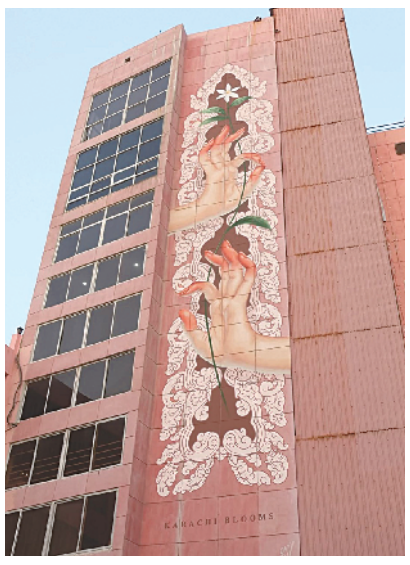
The second workshop featured American theatre actress Bonnie J. Evans, who taught creative techniques to Theatre Academy students on how to portray boats, buses, and stairs through acting.

The Arts Council president, Spanish theatre actress Henna and Ustad Mahmood Khan attended along with a large number of students.

Meanwhile, a music workshop featured American cello player Erica Lauren Wise, who informed music enthusiasts about the history of various cello Tunes.

Canadian musician Rizwan Jagani and Pakistan's Ahsan Bari attended, along with Music Academy students. Erica impressed participants by playing various cello instruments.

"It is a great honour for me to be part of the World Culture Festival. I feel great performing with the Arts Council. We are working on making different compositions with the musicians here. This is a tremendous experience for me. The music I presented was written three hundred years ago," she said.



A VIEW of the mural 'Karachi Blooms'. —Dawn

Green Line extension back on track after rare political consensus

PML-N, PPP and Muttahida representatives agree to resume work; project to be completed by Oct 31, 2026

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: After a two-month stalemate, work on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Green Line extension resumed after the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) joined forces to revive the crucial transport scheme in a rare political consensus for Karachi's development.

In another show of generosity, a representative of the federal government publicly acknowledged that the project should never have resumed without consulting the city administration, recognising that Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab's objections were both justified and urgently in need of resolution.

The resumption of the multi-billion-rupee project brought together the three key parties in Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's coalition — PPP, MQM-P and PML-N — which agreed that, despite their political differences, they must stand united for the development and betterment of Karachi and its residents.

Talking to reporters at a ceremony organised on the main M. A. Jinnah Road, near the historical landmark building of Radio Pakistan, representatives from all three parties agreed that minor disputes should be resolved amicably to prevent delays and bottlenecks in development projects funded by either the federal or provincial government.

In response to a question, Mr Wahab stated that raising objections to any project in the interest of the city is intended to ensure improvement, and the real beneficiaries of major urban projects are the citizens.

However, until a project is completed, the public must endure difficulties.

"When the construction of the Green Line began, citizens also faced hardships," he said. "When its foundation stone was laid, the project's scope extended only up to Municipal Park, but the concerned contractor failed to complete the work, and the people of Karachi had to bear the consequences. Unfortunately, when the new phase of this project began, the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) was not consulted.

"We fully support development works, but our position has been that drainage and sewerage issues must first be resolved. I thank the Prime Minister for providing funds for this project. I request the PM to consider more development projects for Karachi, and if we all work together for this city, no force can stop its progress."

Senior MQM-P leader and MNA Aminul Haque endorsed the mayor's points and referred to his meeting with Barrister Wahab a few weeks ago, where both agreed to address KMC's concerns, and his party then submitted the matter to PM Shehbaz Sharif.

"A few weeks ago, in a meeting with Mayor [Murtaza Wahab], he briefed us about the KMC's reservations," he said.

"The mayor raised three points, and I believe all of them were valid and justified. They should have been addressed before launching the Green Line extension.

"The mayor sought three key guarantees: the rebuilding and rehabilitation of roads after the project's completion, proper construction of stormwater drainage infrastructure, and timely completion of the project without a single day of delay," he added.

The MQM-P leader called it "better late than never," as PM Shehbaz Sharif responded to MQM-P's appeal and issued directives to the Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (PIDCL) to address all concerns and open the project to the public upon completion by October 31, 2026.

The federal government, he said, had already released funds for the Green Line extension project, so there would be no fiscal constraints for PIDCL in completing it.

The KMC, backed by the PPP-led Sindh government, had halted the federally funded multi-billion-rupee project in September, citing PIDCL's failure to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from municipal authorities before launching the work.

The KMC had also accused PIDCL of damaging city infrastructure during the completion of the first phase and said it would not allow work on the extension phase to proceed without guarantees that every affected facility would be fully restored.

The municipal leadership of Karachi had also challenged the authority of the federal government by questioning the role of PIDCL in urban development projects, insisting that all such initiatives in Karachi should fall under municipal jurisdiction.

Spokesperson for the federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for Sindh, Barrister Raja Khaliq uz Zaman Ansari, told the media that the mayor was taken into confidence following resolutions on traffic flow, drainage, pedestrian bridges and other issues under PIDCL.

"The mayor of Karachi was rightly concerned about the citizens, and in view of the measures we have taken, there are no outstanding issues," he said.

"So there is no point in political point-scoring. The Prime Minister is an open-hearted person, and he has promised that the federal government will provide funds for development in this city and other parts of the province.

"The federal and provincial governments, KMC and PIDCL can all work together to resolve issues in projects and bring prosperity to the lives of ordinary citizens," he added.